

THE GATEWAY

Volume LXXXIX Number 42

Thursday, 23 March, 2000

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/gateway/>

Students with children get benefits

Christie Tucker
News Editor

It's no joke. Students with dependants will have something to celebrate on April Fool's Day, when health benefits for children of post-secondary students finally become available.

The provincial government announced Wednesday that children of post-secondary students will now be eligible for medical coverage including prescription drugs, eyewear, dental work, diabetic supplies, and ambulance services.

Janice Schroeder, Public Affairs Officer for Alberta Human Resources and Employment Communications, estimates that the new program will affect 6500 Alberta children, and will cost the government \$14 million a year.

"The decision is based on a joint federal and provincial series of programs to reduce child poverty," said Schroeder.

Previously, Schroeder explained, students on financial assistance were ineligible for child health benefits. But that is the major change in the Alberta Child Health Benefit that will affect students.

The news comes as a pleasant surprise to Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Executive) Lily Cho.

"I'm sure this is going to be extremely welcome news," she said. "Generally speaking, there are a number of grad students who are parents."

Schroeder estimated that nearly 15 per cent of all students have children.

The program will bring new benefits to University of Alberta students, who are unprotected by a health plan. The U of A is one of few major universities in Canada that is not covered by a group health plan.

Concerns over lack of health benefits were something U of A Students' Union executives brought to the table in negotiations with Minister of Learning Lyle Oberg early in the summer of last year.

"General health programs assume student associations have a health plan," said Students' Union president Mike Chalk.

"That was one of our first concerns, and we're happy to see that we got some action on it."

The Students' Union held a referendum in 1997 for a group health plan, which was rejected by a scant 38 votes.

The Alberta Child Health Benefit will be application-based and evaluated by financial need. Parents must apply to Alberta Human Resources and Employment for the coverage.



U of A professor Mark Simpson headed up Kung-Fu Grip at the Rev last Saturday, but garnered a disappointing turnout. See page 7 for the details.

Colwyn Llewellyn-Thomas / THE GATEWAY



Today

15 Does the act of dropping gloves belong in CIAU hockey? Keith Justik questions the strict no-fighting rule.

Quote for the day:

Bill Gates is a white Persian cat and a monocle away from being a villain in a James Bond movie.

— Dennis Miller

This day in The Gateway's history:

Louie's Sub and campus fraternities Phi Gamma Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta teamed up to build the world's longest submarine sandwich. The world record sandwich, which measured 1196' 9", stretched the entire length of HUB Mall. Unfortunately,

Pharmaceutical company funds viral research chair

Ryan Smith
News Editor

Mo' money, mo' money. The University of Alberta announced Monday that a \$3-million chair in virology has been established.

Glaxo Wellcome, a pharmaceutical company, has already given \$950 000 to the project, with another \$800 000 to come over the next four years. The Alberta government has pledged \$1.25 million.

Bert Murray, Director of Fundraising for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, said, "We're really excited. We hope this chair will bring the brightest young Canadian scientists to study at the U of A."

Murray added that the focus of the chair's research will be Hepatitis C. "I think this money evolved because Dr Lorne Tyrell discovered a cure for Hepatitis B, and that gave Glaxo the confidence in us to support our Hepatitis C research."

Peter Robertson, Director of the U of A's Industry Liason Office, said that the money from Glaxo is "the largest single donation from a pharmaceutical company to the U of A's [fundraising] campaign." He added that the donation is "enough for a fully endowed chair, which means we can pay for it with interest alone, and that way we can keep the chair for the long term."

PLEASE SEE "DRUG" ON PAGE 4

Conflicting Rohypnol rumours cause confusion in Lister Hall

Neil Parmar
News Staff

Confusion concerning Rohypnol has yet again found its way into Lister Hall.

A female resident in Kelsey reported that "last weekend a girl woke up and experienced the symptoms [of Rohypnol] in Lister, and they don't know who the culprit was."

PLEASE SEE "LISTER" ON PAGE 3

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Please recycle this newspaper



Ici on peut voir les nouvelles résidences de la Faculté St Jean. 62 étudiants y ont dernièrement le 6 mars.

Dan Jancewicz / THE GATEWAY

THE GATEWAY

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Editor-in-Chief

Neal Ozano

neal.ozano@su.ualberta.ca 492-5168

Managing Editor

Don Iveson

don.iveson@su.ualberta.ca 492-2019

News Editors

Christie Tucker

christie.tucker@su.ualberta.ca 492-1483

Ryan Smith

ryan.smith@su.ualberta.ca 492-1483

Sports Editor

Barrie Tanner

barrie.tanner@su.ualberta.ca 492-5068

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Theo Buchinskas

theo.buchinskas@su.ualberta.ca 492-7052

Photo Editor

Chul-Ahn (Jimmy) Jeong

jimmy.jeong@su.ualberta.ca 492-1482

Production Editor

Dan Lazin

dan.lazin@su.ualberta.ca 492-3423

Circulation Manager

Mike Winters

mike.winters@su.ualberta.ca 492-3423

Photo Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Haddow

haddow@ualberta.ca 492-1482

Comics Coordinator

Chris Boutet

cboutet@ualberta.ca 492-2019



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For advertising information, contact
Clark Johnson
2-900 Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, T6G 2J7
(780) 492-4236

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The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh Computers, a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 3c flatbed scanner, and a Polaroid SprintScan 35 Plus optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign and QuarkXPress are used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. The Gateway has a hot new HP Laserjet 5000N, which is used to produce paste-up images of the pages. The Gateway's games of choice are Dave Dobson's marvelous Snood, and Maxx's SimCity 2000.

Contributors

Rotating Dog, Patrick Finlay, Dan Jancewicz, Colwyn Llewellyn-Thomas, Alan Wharmby, Daorcey Le Bray, Keith Justik, Nancy Gregg, Raymond Biesinger, Adam Houston, Jon Dunbar, Neil Parmar, James Rossiter, Sarah Chan, Emma Hooper, Geoff Moysa, Steve Lillebuen, Ian Mulder, Yunn Au-Yeung, Natalie Kaiser, David Zeibin

Summer student job prospects looking good

Ashleigh Clarke

THE VARSITY

TORONTO (CUP) — As school draws to a close, students are busy seeking summer employment.

"I just don't want to work at McDonald's again," said first-year student Liz Donkervoort, who's had enough of the burger and fry empire.

"I'd love to work at a country club, and I've put in a few resumes to the ones around my area, but I'm not too optimistic."

Fortunately, there's hope for students like Donkervoort, according to Statistics Canada.

The youth unemployment rate is 12.5 per cent, the lowest it has been in 10 years.

The Student Employment Network (SEN) released these findings as a positive indicator for students looking for work this summer.

"For once we are not the bearer of bad news," said Kevin Makra, president of SEN.

The group puts out an annual guide for students looking for summer jobs based on feedback from employers.

"In the past, we [at SEN] have had to tell students that companies are not looking for seasonal help or that they are planning on hiring internally, [which meant they hired] people like their employees' kids," said Makra.

"But this year, the low unemployment rate means they are going to be hiring externally and will be

more proactive in that search."

Colleen Phillips-Dabis, acting coordinator of the summer, part-time and temporary employment at the University of Toronto (U of T) career centre, is equally optimistic.

"The market for students is definitely better than it was five years ago," said Phillips-Dabis. She says the career centre is being used more and more as a liaison between employers and students.

But in order to take advantage of these employment trends, Makra recommends starting early.

"In response to the limited amount of students out there, employers will be scrambling to fill their positions and are going to start looking earlier than usual," she said.

Students are also encouraged to pay attention to emerging trends.

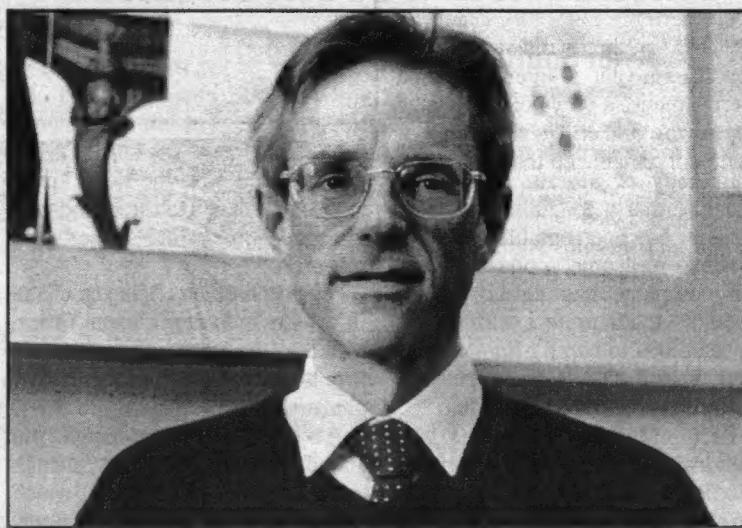
"The increase in e-commerce and web-based companies has led to a more entrepreneurial and non-traditional approach to business, and the bulk of positions that we advertise are from small or medium-sized businesses," said Phillips-Dabis.

With such small companies, a person might be employed to handle a number of duties that would otherwise be given to several people in a larger corporation.

As a result, the companies want a well-rounded individual.

"They are looking for tech-savvy [students], but also expect a degree of skill in other areas, like marketing and communication," Phillips-Dabis advised.

Visiting professor outlines murky past of Nazi universities



Visiting professor Alois Kernbaur lectured on campus Tuesday.

Patrick Finlay / THE GATEWAY

Raymond Biesinger

NEWS STAFF

Visiting professor Alois Kernbaur from the University of Graz spent an hour and a half on Tuesday giving an interim report entitled "The Nazification of Austrian Universities" to a crowd of students, visitors and faculty.

After outlining the situation in Austrian post-secondary institutions in the interwar period (between WWI and WWII), Kernbaur began to explain what he described as the imposition of the "National Socialist notion of universities, the so-called political university" in Austria.

Kernbaur said that the upper echelon of the post-secondary system's administrators, who were up

to then democratically elected, became, after WWII, appointed by a ministry under the supervision of the National Socialist party.

Kernbaur then expounded that student groups and fraternities also fell under the dictatorial axe and were replaced by what was called the "Student Leader."

As Kernbaur explained, the Student Leader "could veto the admission of any student to the university and could expel students from the university, thus becoming an important figure in university life."

The study of Austrian universities at the mid twentieth century composes but one facet of Kernbaur's interests.

Until April of this year, Kernbaur will teach intellectual history at the University of Alberta.

Compiled by Barrie Tanner. If you have witnessed a crime on campus that should be published, please contact us at 492-1483 or news@su.ualberta.ca.

Aliens invade city in MDK2

Jon Dunbar

NEWS STAFF

The aliens are coming, and they're landing right here in Edmonton.

Computer game manufacturer BioWare Corporation's latest release, *MDK2*, depicts an alien spaceship landing in Edmonton. The game is a sequel to the popular game *MDK*, which featured six levels each in different cities.

According to executive producer Greg Zeschuk, "Part of the loopy humor from the original *MDK* featured attacks on the home towns of the various developers of the game. We're in Edmonton, so the Aliens decided to attack us here."

The Edmonton-based BioWare Corp. was the developer for last year's blockbuster computer game *Baldur's Gate*.

Part of the loopy humor from the original MDK featured attacks on the home towns of the various developers of the game. We're in Edmonton, so the Aliens decided to attack us here.

— Greg Zeschuk, executive producer, BioWare Corporation

Zeschuk says, "Probably about 65 per cent of the people here are U of A grads. The founders (myself included) are all grads from medicine (class of 1992)."

Zeschuk says that the U of A doesn't make any specific appearance in the game.

MDK2 is scheduled for release late this month or early next month on Sega Dreamcast.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Dashing through the snow

On March 13 at about 2:00am, Campus Security stopped a vehicle near Lister Hall for stunting. The suspect vehicle was towing a toboggan.

The fine art of stealing

On the same day, a Fine Arts staff member called Campus Security after confronting a suspicious male in the process of stealing a wallet from an unattended purse. When confronted, he became verbally abusive and fled the area. He is described as a 40-50 year old pale and slender caucasian with a moustache and a new black felt coat with red writing. The jacket had leather elbows. If you see a person matching this description, call campus 5-0.

Next time, go to the library instead

On the evening of March 14, a student contacted 5-0 after confronting thieves in the process of breaking into his locker. When he confronted them, they denied involvement, though books were reported stolen. That same evening, he spotted them again and called Campus Security. They were identified and soon confessed to the thefts.

HUBbubble halted

On March 16, two loitering males were approached by constables in HUB mall. One was found to have a record for break-and-enter and theft and had also trespassed on University property on a prior occasion. He was not a student. That same day at 3:00am, HUB residents reported three males arguing. When they were identified, one had a record for violence and break-and-enter, another was on probation and had a record for violence, weapons, theft and drugs. All three were evicted from University property.

There goes trouble

On March 19 a male was denied entry to a closed bar on campus at 2:00am. The goon's response was to punch the staff member in the face. He was arrested for assault and being drunk in public. He also provided a false name, an offence, and further charges are pending.

TV burners still at large

Over the last little while, there has been a trend of somebody burning televisions in the basement of Windsor car park. If anyone parking in the lot notices or is missing a TV, call us. There must be a good reason behind it.

Lister Hall is safe from Rohypnol, says representative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The drug first caused distress when a poster warning students of the substance was found around the University residence in late January.

But representatives of Lister hall denied any problems have occurred in the residence due to the so-called "date-rape drug."

This is one of the safest places on campus.

— Kirsten Helm,
VP (Public Relations), Lister Hall

"This is one of the safest places on campus," said Lister Hall's VP (Public Relations) Kirsten Helm. "We have posters up for everything from sexual assault [to] walking home alone at dark, and they're all about educating the people. We all know [Rohypnol] is out there, but there's been no confirmed case of it being found at Lister."

Rohypnol is a white tablet which has on occasion been dropped into drinks at bars and clubs. Within 30 minutes of swallowing the tranquilizer, temporary amnesia and relaxation is induced.

Combined with these effects, and



Kirsten Helm, VP (Public Relations) for Lister Hall, says Lister is safe.

Dan Jancowicz / THE GATEWAY

the fact that it is untraceable after several hours, a victim is often left with nothing but a vague memory.

While residents of the building are not allowed alcohol in public areas such as the elevators and

stairwells, Helm assured that employees of The Ship and Anchor in Lister "do everything they can to ensure the safety of people's drinks. We just haven't had Rohypnol in Lister."

BC has country's largest enrolment increase

Tristan Winch
THE URGES

VANCOUVER (CUP) — British Columbia has seen the biggest jump in university enrolment in Canada over the past six years, state recent figures by Statistics Canada.

And the increase, say education analysts, can be tied to the province's tuition freeze.

BC universities have seen an 18.4 per cent increase in the number of full-time students, and a 10.7 per cent rise in the number of part-time students, between the fall of 1992 to the spring of 1999.

The increase means 53,013 students were enrolled in the province in 1997-98, up from 45,802 in 1993-94.

The provincial figures buck the national trend of decreasing enrolment. Over the same period, national student enrolment stayed roughly the same, dipping by less than one per cent.

Tara Wilson, spokesperson for the Ministry of Advanced Education, said that it's difficult to point to one reason why BC's numbers are higher those of other provinces.

"When you look at the study that Stats Canada did, compared to other provinces, BC is one of the only [ones] with any growth and the one with the strongest growth," she said.

Wilson suggested the provincial freeze on tuition fees may be one factor.

The number of full-time students in Ontario, for example, where there is no tuition freeze, dropped by 1.8 per cent.

"We've been putting money into [post-secondary education] since

We're the only province that hasn't dropped the amount of money going into post-secondary education. In other provinces it's dropped by as much as 17 per cent.

— Tara Wilson, spokesperson, BC Ministry of Advanced Education

'91," said Wilson. "We're the only province that hasn't dropped the amount of money going into post-secondary education. In other provinces it's dropped by as much as 17 per cent."

Michael Gardiner, BC organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students, was pleased with the numbers.

"It's obviously good news," he said. "BC has historically had much lower participation rates in universities than other provinces, and so this growth in enrolment has been very good news—more young BC students having the opportunity to go to university."

Gardiner believes the tuition freeze, and the increase in spaces that has accompanied it, has allowed a greater number of students to attend university without a fall in entry requirements.

However, Gardiner also called for the creation of new classes to avoid overcrowding due to increased enrolment.

"Rather than creating new classes, [universities] have just put more people into existing classes," he said. "The result of that has been some slightly lower student-to-teacher attention and some overcrowding in classes, and in some cases, some availability of required courses."

Scholarship named after slain Taber teen

Christie Tucker
News Editor

The \$3 million scholarship fund for second-year students outlined in this month's provincial budget is underway, and on Tuesday the government announced that the scholarship will be named after slain Taber teen Jason Lang.

The scholarship, which Alberta Ministry of Learning estimates will help about 3000 students a year, will offer students going into their second year \$1000 for their education, based on performance.

Every second-year student with a first-year average equivalent to 80 per cent will be eligible.

At the U of A, that mark translates to around 8 on the stanine system, although Ed Greenberg, from Alberta Learning says the qualifying grade will be negotiated between the department and each institution.

Greenberg said the memorial scholarship "remembers Jason and the tragedy that surrounds his death and how it impacted this province."

"Jason Lang had a wonderful future in front of him, and he didn't have an opportunity to continue his education. Hopefully, it will help thousands of students continue [theirs]," he said.

The first crop of students eligible for the fund will be contacted by October 15, and awards will be distributed by early November.

The scholarship was part of "furthering Dr Oberg's commitment to ensure that finances are not a barrier to post-secondary education," said Greenberg.

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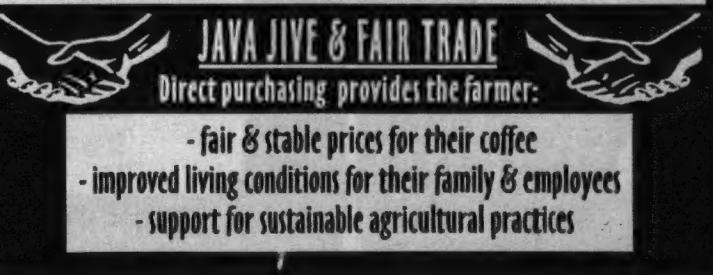
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No hooligans!

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS UNION



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ORIENTATION ASSISTANT

The University of Alberta Students' Union invites applications for the Orientation Assistant position with the Orientation program. Duties of the Orientation Assistant include: to coordinate the student enrollment process; develop a student survival guide; liaise with various presenters for Orientation; to develop a database system for volunteers and participants; to work closely with the Orientation team.

Qualified Applicants must be undergraduate University of Alberta students, having paid full student union fees. Expertise in the following areas is beneficial: data entry, knowledge of working with the public, some office administration experience is an asset, as well as an understanding of Orientation.

This is a full-time (35 hrs/ week) position for the summer months, May- September 2000 (Paulette: would this be May 1 - September 30 2000?). Remuneration is \$930/month May - Aug, \$815/mo Sept(subject to approval).

Submit a cover letter, resume, and references to Paulette Kostynuk, Orientation Manager, 030R Students' Union Building, T6G 2J7. Deadline for receipt of applications is 4:30 p.m. on Friday March 31, 2000. For further information call 492-4086 or e-mail paulette.kostynuk@su.ualberta.ca

Please note that only short listed applicants will be contacted.

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Email: (info) sfaic@su.ualberta.ca (emergency aid) emergaid@ualberta.ca

2-700 SUB Phone: 492-3483

NEWS

Tuition frozen at two Atlantic universities

Sarah Murphy

THE CADRE

"We appreciate this material signal of support for post-secondary education in the province," said Duffy.

UPEI President Wade MacLauchan added that the freeze was the first step in a three-year plan to restore investment in higher education.

"We are pleased that our students will be the beneficiaries of prudent management and increased level of public support for the University," said the president.

After numerous years of decreased funding and an average rise in tuition of 7.7 per cent per year over the last 22 years, the UPEI Student Union applauds the funding decisions.

"We would have to say no one was disappointed," said John Desrosiers, student union president.

According to figures from the Canadian Federation of Students, undergraduate arts students at Memorial pay \$3300 in tuition.

In Nova Scotia, students pay \$4113 on average, while the average tuition in New Brunswick is \$3329.

Drug company gets first right of refusal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Robertson said the joint funding "is a little unusual, but it seems to be the trend that the government will put up matching money to projects supported by industry."

In response to a question regarding the frequently voiced concerns about corporate involvement at public education institutions, Murray said, "Every other university does it and we have to, too, in order to

compete. ... Quite frankly, most pharmaceutical companies don't tell you what to study—there're 'no strings attached' to the money we get."

Robertson said that when a company gives money for research they have "first right of offer, which is the first opportunity to buy the exclusive rights of intellectual property [patented work] if anything comes of the research."

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CAMPUS AMBASSADOR COORDINATOR

The University of Alberta Students' Union invites applications for the position of Campus Ambassador Coordinator. Duties of the Coordinator include: screening and training volunteers to act as Ambassadors for the University, acting as a liaison with both external and internal departments and people who are interested in touring the University, implementing advertising and promotional plans, and helping to coordinate different special events with the university.

Qualified applicants must be undergraduate University of Alberta students, having paid full Students' Union fees. Expertise in the following areas is beneficial: volunteer management, data entry, public presentation, as well as knowledge about the University and the Campus Ambassador program.

This is a part-time (20-25 hour/week) position with a one year term of May 1 2000-April 30 2001. Remuneration is \$825/month Sept-Apr, \$942/mo May-Aug(subject to approval).

Submit a cover letter, resume, and references to Paulette Kostynuk, Orientation Manager, 030R Students' Union Building, T6G 2J7. Deadline for receipt of applications is 4:30 p.m. on Friday March 31, 2000. For further information call 492-4086 or e-mail paulette.kostynuk@su.ualberta.ca

Please note that only short listed applicants will be contacted.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS UNION

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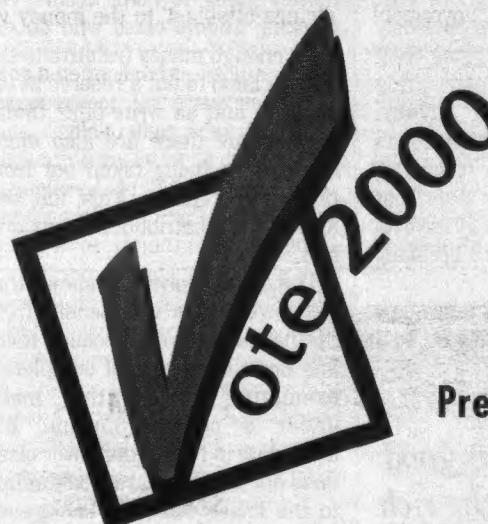
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2. McNULTY, Julien

VP Academic: 1. SAMUEL, Chris
2. SPEER, Jamie

VP External: 1. AGARD, Naomi
2. TANNER, Barrie

VP Operations & Finance: 1. HARLOW, Greg
2. CHAPUT, Paul
3. IVERSON, Jon
4. DUMONT, Scott

VP Student Life: 1. WANKE, Jen
2. ZIMMERMAN, Mike

Board of Governors Representative: 1. CORMIER, Mark
YES
NO

3636
1199

3202
1533

2716
1863

1646
1610
1068
309

2498
2236
4125
460

The Elections Office wishes to thank the candidates and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to their campaigns. A special thank you to the poll captains, poll clerks, and staff of the University the Students' Union. Without these people this event could not have taken place. Special thanks go to:

TELUS - for providing internet service for online voting
Fido - for the cellular phones
HUB International Marketplace - for their support & use of facilities
Watson Aberant Arnold - for accounting services

City of Edmonton Elections Office - for lending their ballot counters
First Alberta Armoured Transport - for transporting the ballots
The Gateway - for placing our ads under short deadlines

A personal thank you to the voters. It is with your blessing that the SU achieves the validity, and maintains the ability, to work on behalf of all undergraduate students at the University of Alberta. Thank you all.

Stacy Prochnau
Chief Returning Officer



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS' UNION

MANAGING

THE GATEWAY

Thursday, 23 March, 2000

managing@su.ualberta.ca

EDITORIAL

Treat the disease, not the symptom

If you have been reading any of Edmonton's major daily newspapers in the past couple of days, you have probably noticed a fair number of articles on the alleged 'crack epidemic' plaguing Edmonton Public Schools. Dr Louis Pagliaro, from the University of Alberta, has stated that crack use is rampant in Edmonton high schools. While Pagliaro has yet to produce numbers that back his assertions, it is already raising concerns among the school boards and Edmonton Police.

The issue has raised some other concerns as well. In the March 20 issue of *The Edmonton Sun*, Mayor Bill Smith stated that he was not surprised by the report. His reason? Apparently Smith has been on a few tours of raves along with Edmonton Police, and has witnessed, first-hand, drug use occurring at the parties.

This has nothing to do with Edmonton schools. Yes, high school kids do attend raves, that isn't too shocking. But the *Sun* article made it seem that crack use in schools is the result of raves, and that they are where the problem lies.

Kids in school are experimenting with drugs. Some of them may already be addicts. But this shouldn't be too surprising, not to those who have ever attended high school. The problem is that everyone, including the media, is trying

to point their finger at a source, and one of the most popular scapegoats is the raves. Raves are not causing kids to do drugs. Yes, they do expose those in attendance to drugs, but so does a house party, and so does school. Hell, in many parts of the city, walking to the corner store exposes a person to drugs.

Drug use in schools, and at parties, or wherever, is a symptom. We live in a drug culture, anyone who would try to argue otherwise is living in a cave, either through denial or ignorance. Drugs are present in all walks of life, they are affecting not just our children, but our entire society.

So what can we do about it? That's a good question, and it is one that needs to be asked constantly. There is no one solution, and coming down hard on the rave scene, or on our educators, isn't going to change anything. If we are really concerned about drugs, and the way they affect society, we have to look at society as a whole, rather than simply pointing fingers. If you are sick, you can treat the symptoms, but it doesn't cure the disease. We need to stop trying to treat the symptoms of living in a drug culture, and try and stop the disease.

Theo Buchinskas
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

LETTERS

Public health care is a special case

Why is it that almost every time a Business student writes a letter to the editor for *The Gateway*, he or she ends up sounding like corporatist slime? In response to Heather North's letter on Tuesday March 21, I'd like to ask you, Heather, do you really know anything about Bill 11? Do you know that the Alberta government plans to give money to private health corporations to operate certain health procedures in the province? Do you know that Klein and gang admitted that they don't even know if this whole scheme will save money and that they're not sure if the proposals in Bill 11 will even shorten waiting lists? Also, do you know that Klein's so-called Truth Squads can't answer shit when people are trying to get the real truth?

I'm betting that you and most, but not all, Business students automatically equate the word privatization with increased efficiency and profitability. Let me tell you something, then: Health care should not be treated like fast food where surgeons would ask their patients, "Would you like a side of new kidneys with that hip replacement? No? Then how about supersizing those breasts for only \$39 grand more?" Heather, what I'm trying to get at, Business student to Business student, is that we should look beyond government propaganda and corporate rhetoric and deeper into what is really at the

heart of important issues. Health care, like education, cannot be thought of as merely a commodity that can be efficiently run by market forces—it demands different treatment because of its special nature.

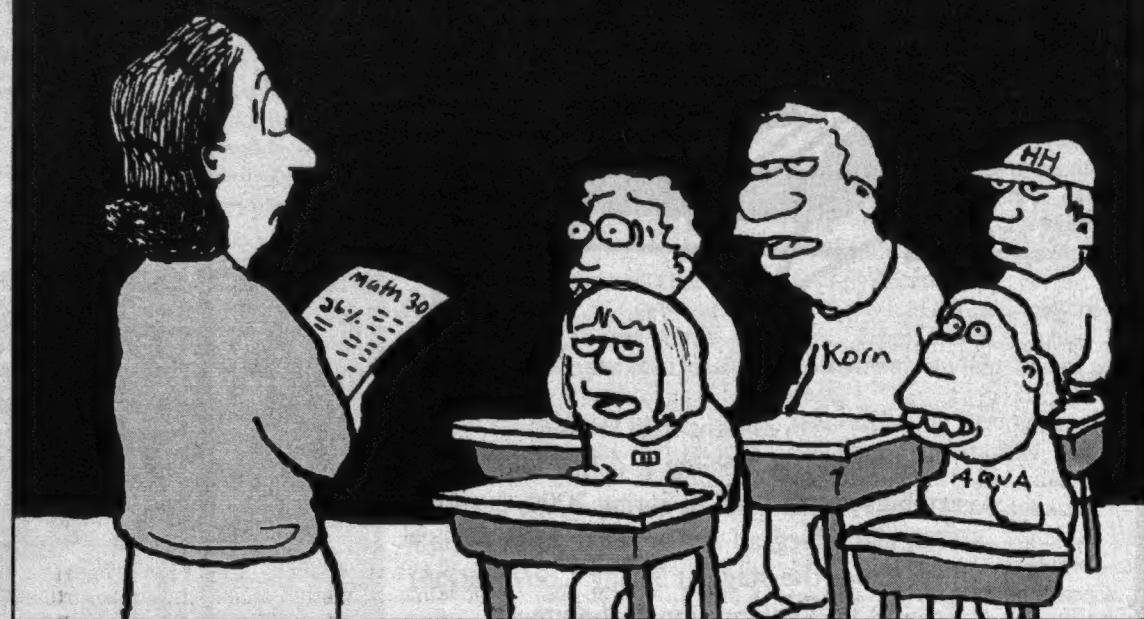
GREGORY PANG
BUSINESS IV

Beef letter's bias shows right through

I realize I'm a little late on this one but I really have to respond to the March 9 letter by J Hess outlining the health virtues of "lean beef." I'm sure if you read the original source of this information you will note a little asterisk beside the word lean, which—similar to the 'suggested servings' you find on cereal boxes and potato chip bags—are fictional quantities of food never actually consumed in such small doses in reality.

However, the point that I had to laugh at was the concluding statement, that the 'facts' concerning the merits of beef and your diet were brought to you by the Alberta Cattle Commission! The statement that 'their business is beef' quite obviously indicates to just about any rational mind that perhaps you aren't going to get both sides of the story here. Do you think the Marlboro Man will tell you "cigarettes are bad for your health, so please stop using them and put our

there's no crack epidemic, they're just stupid.



company out of business?" Now, I'm not comparing beef to cigarettes, but it is important to look at the bias your information is filtered through. The reality is that a vegetarian lifestyle isn't appropriate for everyone, but perhaps most of us need to seriously re-think the vast quantities of meat that we consume (most of which isn't 'lean') and begin to lead a healthier, more humane lifestyle.

TIM WEIS
MSC, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING I

I guess I'm just a left-wing nut!

I would just like to make a short comment on the letter to the editor in Tuesday's *Gateway* about defending Ralph Klein's idea of health care. Do you mean to tell us that the only people that really matter in society are the upper and middle class? I suppose you're right! Perhaps in the light of this discovery health care should just become one big lucrative business. Who knows, maybe only the upper and middle class should be allowed to use the public washrooms. Private Washrooms! Just think of the money to be made there! Don't get me wrong though, I have nothing against "free market and the industry of entrepreneurial people," but I do think that business should stay in business and that health care should keep serving all the people and not just the ones that "matter." Then again maybe I'm just a left-wing nut!

ROSEANNE PARROTT
ENGINEERING I

You sure are commies!

I am writing this letter to back up Heather North's statements on the Bolshevik revolutionaries who have been viciously attacking the exalted *führer*, Heir Klein, in *The Gateway's* comics.

Of course private hospitals should be allowed; anyone with a low income doesn't really deserve to live anyway. After all, how much can they contribute to multinational corporate industry? They probably can't even afford a pair of Nikes.

All those researchers who have published studies showing that public health care is more cost effective and efficient are obviously just a bunch of tree-hugging, vegetable-eating, sandal-wearing commies with long hair anyway. And so what if Bill 11 contradicts federal law? Marijuana cigarettes are also illegal and I'm sure that you pinkos at *The Gateway* have no qualms when it comes to breaking this law.

MARIKA SCHWARDT
REHAB MEDICINE I

Flat taxes are no good for anyone but the rich

I am writing this letter to address the flat tax issue that was mentioned in the letter to the editor, "Gateway cartoons part of grand communist scheme."

The other issues mentioned in the letter, although completely misrepresented and unsubstantiated, are too large to debunk in one single letter so I will leave it for another day. Let me start by saying the 'information' in reference to the flat tax is not accurate. The Liberal government has researched this proposal, as have many other Canadian and American academics both from the left and the right. Their conclusions have been mixed. The one thing that is clear however is that the middle class will not win, the upper class will.

The redistribution of revenue under the current system is top down, meaning the people who make the most are taxed the most. One must remember that people in those tax brackets have more money to put into tax shelters and other write-offs. Under the flat tax, the redistribution of money will

lead to middle-out distribution where the brunt of the burden will be felt by the middle class. It is important to mention that there will be a substantial difference in government tax revenue because putting the tax between 15-18 per cent is difference of almost 40 per cent from what the current top tax bracket faces. Where is this extra money going to come from? The working middle class who do not have enough money (relative to the upper class) to put a reserve in tax shelters and as write-offs? Under the flat tax there are also many exemptions being taken out from the current system. This, too, will affect the redistribution of tax dollars.

The studies have also shown that the lower class will benefit from the flat tax as well, because there has been some talk of completely exempting them if they make under a certain amount. But according to North, the lower class does not matter. Increased funding to the lower class via tax breaks could (I am speculating) reduce the amount of welfare recipients, which will result in tax dollars being stretched less.

In closing, I would also suggest that Ms North do some research, using unbiased sources, on the effects of private health care before it is touted as being more 'efficient.'

It's easy to praise the 'efficiency' of a proposed system when you're not the one that's going to get fucked by it.

DJ GUZDA
POLITICAL SCIENCE III

No white jeans for me

I am writing this letter in response to J Arthur Hilroy's letter (March 21, 2000). Mr Hilroy asks what we can expect? Well, how about something better? What about quality improvement? *The Gateway* has improved since I have come here, and I am sure they can improve in this area as well. Also, just for the record, I do not wear

Thirsty for shit we don't need



Christian Berube

Very recently, the students of McGill University rejected a deal with Coca-Cola that would have given the company exclusive beverage-selling rights on the university's campus for a set number of years, in exchange for a set number of dollars.

A few years back, the University of Alberta's students allowed such a deal to go through; I hope you have all by now noticed that almost everything liquid that is available for public purchase and consumption on this campus is a Coke product. Dasani, Minute Maid, Schweppes, Cadbury, Fruitopia, Nestle, Barq's, and many others: they all belong to Coke. This is a monopoly, albeit on a relatively small scale. Your right to choose those products that please you the most has been removed, nice and legal-like. And what do you get in return? When it was made a few years back, the deal was praised by the university administration as being very profitable. Well, were the money evenly distributed among all U of A students (which it isn't), it would amount to about \$13 per student per year. Wow. Needless to say, that's probably not an impressively large fraction of your tuition.

Coca-Cola is an imposing and sinister corporation in many ways. Coke is guessed to be the world's most recognised brand name; it is the world's most powerful beverage company by far. A quick search uncovered 21,762 websites mentioning Coca-Cola; many are in praise of (and engaged in the healthy exchange of) Coke's wonderful products and oh-so-lovable collectibles. Despite its supreme domination of the beverage market (or, one could argue, because of it) Coke advertises shamelessly, secures local monopolies, buys out competitors, and generally abuses as aggressively as possible to maintain and improve its position. The success of its advertising is clear in this society's ever-increasing rates of per-capita soft drink consumption. Coke's buyouts are legendary. Many of its present sub-

While we aggressively fight government intervention in our lives, we gladly allow corporations to tell us how to live, allow them to limit our choices and bombard us with slogans and images until we are ready to consume whatever ridiculous tripe they want to sell us.

sidiaries were once competitors; apparently, Coke made them offers they could not refuse, and they became incorporated into its magnificent empire.

Its actions have shown Coke to be quite a corporate bully. What follow are but a few recent Coke-related stories, as reported by CNN. June, 1997: Coke launches an attack on 7-Up and Dr Pepper by offering juicy incentives to McDonalds franchises that agree to only sell Coke beverages. A Coca-Cola executive is quoted as saying: "There is nothing unusual here. It's all about healthy competition that serves to benefit our customers and consumers." Only in the corporate world are exclusive selling rights "about healthy competition." August, 1998: Wendy's signs a deal that makes Coke its exclusive beverage supplier for 10 years; franchisees can no longer choose to sell Pepsi products as they could before. October, 1999: Coke announces it is developing a soft-drink vending machine that monitors the outside temperature and raises the price of its products when the weather is warmer. December, 1999: Coke is fined \$12 million (US) by Italian regulators for offering illegal incentives and discounts to retailers in order to stifle competition. (In July of that year, regulators in Germany, Denmark, and Austria had raided Coke offices to investigate the company's abuse of its dominant market position.) March, 2000: Coke announces a pay-out deal worth over US\$30 million to its recently-retired Chairman and Chief Executive of two and a half years. At the same time, the company is engaged in a process of "restructuring" that involves sacking about a fifth of its work force.

The above represents the fruits of a very small amount of research, I admit. Somehow, though, I suspect more research would uncover even more frightening information. So where does that leave you and me? To some people, monopolies, corporate take-overs, floods of advertising that serve not to inform but to *convince*, and the successful marketing of products that no one needs are beautiful and natural realities of our brave new corporate

world. To me, they stink. They are signs that the citizens of the modern world, while we aggressively fight government intervention in our lives, gladly allow corporations to tell us how to live, allow them to limit our choices and bombard us with slogans and images until we are ready to consume whatever ridiculous tripe they want to sell us.

But Christian, I need my caffeine! I have neither the time nor the will to detail the detrimental effects of a caffeine addiction; suffice it to say that the shit ain't in any way good for you. I think most people know that. Anyway, if you think you truly require caffeine, consider perhaps a green tea habit; the stuff is cheaper, more responsibly produced, and immensely more healthy than Coke. But Christian, I like Coke! Around the world, bird's nests, fish heads, snake blood, a variety of insects, every type of internal organ, and an assortment of human bodily fluids are all consumed quite happily by people of various persuasions and backgrounds. People can be trained to consume anything; we happen to have been trained to bypass free water fountains and pay to drink expensive, caffeine-laced, ulcer-inducing poison that tastes like sweetened battery acid. As the personal survivor of a cola addiction, I assure you that it is very possible (and easier than you think) to train oneself *not* to like Coke.

The Coca-Cola corporation does not benefit you in any manner; in fact, it has the potential to harm you in many ways. So why benefit Coke? Every time you give Coca-Cola money, you help them advertise, grow in power, limit and eliminate consumer choice, and degrade public health.

You aren't [directly] forced to drink Coke [yet]; neither are you forced to listen to my advice. However, of the two of us, ask yourself who cares more about your well-being, and who stands to gain more from your exploitation; ask who truly believes in the "Thirst For Knowledge," and whose thirst is really for power and capital. The choice between the water fountain and the Coke machine is yours, dear reader. Choose wisely.

mass." Is Estey really that "hard-core" of an *X-Files* fan, or just someone who huffs and puffs when he realizes that his perceived individual tastes are not that much different than those of the many?

JOSHUA LEBLANC

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 0-10 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@su.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of letters it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words in length, and include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

LETTERS CONTINUED

white jeans and I have never owned white jeans. Now, before I go wash my hands, I would just like to say that I enjoy reading *The Gateway*, and will continue to read it in spite of it being "dirty and filthy." Yeah, so there. Now all of you go wash your hands as well, you filthy McNasties.

ASIF ALI
NURSING III

Bland X-Files fan

In response to Jason Estey's article "I'm so hard-core I can't Watch anymore," I would just like to say that Estey's reasoning behind his

X-Files boycott is a joke similar to his article. His argument is based solely on the fact that the show has gotten popular and has gone mainstream. In his article he stated that "The X-Files cannot be the X-Files if there are more than a hand full of people are watching it." Ya, right! Where is there any discussion in his article that addresses content or theme changes? It appears that Estey's disgust with the *X-Files* is based solely on the amount of people that are currently watching it. Perhaps he forgot that this is the same show that in 1994 he so enthusiastically promoted all of his friends to watch prior to its popularity, and he may be one of the founding fathers that caused this show to reach a so-called "critical

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University shouldn't be about the bottom line



Mike Winters

You should see my mom's eyes roll and flutter when I start to use words like "corporatization" or "private interests" when I'm arguing in favour of the public sector. In her eyes, I'm a raving socialist, a "left-wing nut" if you will. She thinks that spending, at least in the hands of the government, in public realms like education or health care, quickly leads to mismanagement.

ment and debt. The idea of governmental intervention is like a bloated dinosaur to her, a thing of the past. With controlled economies there is no incentive, no competition, no proper gauge of market value without the "invisible hand" of the unhinged capitalist consumer.

Now, I consider myself to be quite moderate, and I firmly believe in fiscal responsibility. Take education, for instance. It's currently in vogue to cut down government funding, and universities across Canada have been looking for alternative ways of increasing subsidies. With tuition going up every year it's easy to see why universities have been turning to private corporations. But is it as necessary as some people claim? And is there any better way to manage

Education is not some product like a K-Tel food dehydrator, and we shouldn't have to sell off our intellectual authority and independence to make ends meet.

the money we do have? Our university, which has managed to overspend \$12 million on computer software and in-house training, now wants to spend more money to hire outside people. The university started construction jobs without contracts, leading to overruns that they had no leverage to contend. And one building that was recently renovated was torn down to make way for the construction of the Telus Centre.

Obviously, better management is part of the solution, but I don't think private money is. However, my argument is broader than economics. Perhaps this is why my

mom likes to roll her eyes. Opening the door to corporate interests is a real threat to the intellectual autonomy of universities. Education is not some product like pork sausage or a K-Tel food dehydrator, and we shouldn't have to sell off our intellectual authority and independence to make ends meet. Nor should the market necessarily dictate our research; having private interests staking claim in the university certainly pushes us in that direction.

You can't hide private deals under the guise of "practicality," a veneer of rationality that vests more interest in GDP than with a

real quality education. Lyle Oberg wants to push tech classes in high schools (to service the needs of private companies) even though it seems as though many students never learn to write proper English nor pass their Math 30 Diploma Exams.

Here at the University, the most visible form of a higher private presence is the coke exclusivity deal that students voted for back in 1998. The deal itself seems sound—prices won't change over the next ten years (save inflation) and the money goes straight to students—but each time a private deal is made, the reputation of this university as an independent institution of learning is put in serious jeopardy.

There really must be more to a university than its bottom line.

Are honest people an endangered species?

Yunn Au-Yeung

Are the words integrity and honesty becoming obsolete? Are we unable to trust that there are good people with good intentions surrounding us in the world in these times of fast-paced paranoia?

Last week, I left my minidisc player and the headphones my boyfriend got me for my 21st birthday—and my wallet with all that important stuff that nobody enjoys replacing—underneath the foos ball table in the SUB arcade. I left in blissful ignorance after the rush of the game, and sauntered back up the stairs to my books, forgetting my prized possessions. I remembered an hour later, and rushed down to the Games Room hoping to get in before it closed. To my dismay, the caretaker there said they were closing up, and nothing was left on the floor. I was crushed. I had owned my new toys

I slumped around with a frown on my face proclaiming that people were evil and there wasn't an ounce of goodness in the world. I cursed the subhuman that took my things and didn't even return my ID.

for less than two months, and there were many keepsakes in that wallet.

However, I was not alarmed. People are good. I'll have my stuff returned by tomorrow! I'm sure the attendant at the Games Room picked it up, and kept it for me.

The next morning, I rushed to the Games Room only to find a different attendant, who told me she found nothing left behind. I called Campus Security; all the lost and found places—nothing. The girl at the Games Room told me, "I'm sorry, but I think the stuff is gone. People are mean. My friend got his whole bag and Laptop computer stolen last week and he just left it

for five minutes!"

My heart sank as I realized I did not have the \$600 it would take to replace all my things. Not only was it a financial burden on an already poor and starving student; but it was a hassle to file a report, get new ID, call the credit card companies, and dish out for the fundraising proceeds that were in my wallet and owed to another organization.

For the next week, I slumped around with a frown on my face proclaiming that people were evil and that there wasn't an ounce of goodness in the world. I cursed the subhuman that took my things and didn't even have the heart to

return my ID, which was of no use to them.

I suppose I should have been more careful with my things. After all, the theft problem at the university has been on the rise. There are even signs now in study areas and libraries reading, "Thefts occurring. Don't leave your things unattended." These are accompanied by an illustration of a stick figure shown falling asleep from a day of hard study, only to wake and find his possessions stolen. Unfortunately, to some, this is a grim reality. However, is it totally out of the question to hope that people have enough integrity (there's the word again) or honesty (again) in them to return things? Or at least not to steal them?

For me, this was out of the question. People are horrible. I was under this pretense, until the same afternoon that I told people

of my misfortune, a friend bought me two roses to brighten my day, and all those around me tried to cheer me up with jokes and banter. The dark cloud hovering over me began to lift. The event that restored my faith in people came when my boyfriend had a mysterious payment of over \$4500 put on his credit card. Now, had he been the same sort of person as who took my things, he might have kept quiet and enjoyed his newfound wealth. Instead, he called MasterCard and had them find the rightful take the payment off his account. Some people may say he was stupid and lost his free ride—that to keep the money would only be human, or normal. No crime would have been committed if no one knew, right? I must disagree and just say that he did the most human thing possible. To be good-natured is what qualifies us as human beings.

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Egon the best Ghostbuster



Chris Boutet

Ask any college student today what the first thing on their mind is right now, and they'll all tell you the same thing: Ghostbusters. Now, I'm sure you're thinking to yourself, "Hey, this guy's retarded. I'm not thinking about anything even *closely* related to ghostbusters or ghost-busting. He doesn't know me! I'm gonna read the sports section!" Now just hold on there, cowboy, let's not let it get to that. Sure, you're not pondering the 1984 classic now that I've mentioned it, but come on. Everybody

Fact #1: No competition. Who else was there? Dan Akroyd playing Dr Raymond Who-the-fuck-cares, Bill Murray as Professor Funny, and the mysterious black ghostbuster, Winston Zeddemore.

thinks about Ghostbusters at some point in the day, and you can't just keep on lying to yourself like that. It's tearing you apart!

Egon is the best Ghostbuster. Don't ever let any slope-browed, syphilitic tool try to tell you different, because he probably shouldn't even be outside of his pen right now. In fact, call the SPCA. You see, the debate has been raging on this hotly disputed topic ever since the movie was released, and I feel it's time to put an end to it. So pull your heads out of your collective asses, babies, because here comes the proof.

Fact #2: Only Ghostbuster who was cool enough to don a weird jelly-roll-type haircut for the animated series.

cares, Bill Murray as Professor Funny, and the mysterious black ghostbuster, Winston Zeddemore. Without Egon, these guys are nothing more than a travelling slapstick team that shoots lasers. Not even lasers, actually, probably Silly String or mustard.

Fact #3: First suggested that the Ghostbusters "cross streams," thereby making them actually capable of fulfilling their job description by "busting ghosts" that were bigger than an average

Fact #4: Egon never killed fourteen children in a sweaty Louisiana motel room like Dan Akroyd did that cold September morn.

toaster oven.

Fact #5: He liked soup.

So how could anyone continue saying that Egon is not the best Ghostbuster in the face of this indisputable evidence? I don't know. You're the retard, not me. All I know is that there will never be another man like Egon Spengler, or to a lesser extent, Harold Ramis. And they never should have made a *Ghostbusters II* just because they felt the need to make the same fucking movie, except with more '90s synth music and "street humour."

For the record, the word "ghostbuster" appeared eleven times in this article.

Are we at 400 words yet? Gee, you probably could have been reading the sports section the whole time. Sorry.

THE BURLAP SACK

Today's Burlap Sack award goes to the stupid lady with a kid in her white luxury car. An odd target, you say? No. This woman endangered my life, her son's life, and the life of the people coming towards her in their cars when she attempted to turn left and, in doing so, was blocked by pedestrians, whom she proceeded to glare at. As traffic backed up behind her, and pedestrians scrambled out of the way, I proceeded to stand in front of her car, blocking her way, and say "nice one, lady" as she looked nervously at oncoming traffic.

Don't try to drive over people, lady. And don't glare at me when I'm walking through a crosswalk. You're in the wrong, not me, so wait until I'm out of your way, and shut your face, idiot.

NEAL OZANO

The Burlap Sack is a Gateway feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings actually occur.

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*Hockey
is a gentleman's
game, but
players remove
their jacket and
ties before they
start skating
around with what
might be
considered a
medieval-type
weapon in their
hands.*

He sits across the ice on the opposing bench and his presence is felt every time he steps onto the ice. He is the cheap, dirty and dishonorable player. He gets so far beneath a player's skin that just once he would like the opportunity to pummel him, straighten him out or maybe just embarrass him in front of the crowd.

But you can't! Not according to the rules outlined in University hockey. Fighting results in your immediate removal from the game, followed by a suspension of usually one to two games. Tree huggers, as Don Cherry identifies them, figure it is a simple case of what is right and what is wrong, and fighting is wrong. But is it? It is not as simple as this, and those that coach and play the game are quick to point out why.

"Players have no honor" reports Bears head coach Rob Daum. He says that in a game, the referee's job is to maintain the safety of the game by calling penalties. But, "there are certain times during a game where penalties don't mean anything - because the game has gotten out of hand. A two minute minor doesn't warrant what has happened on the ice!" So what happens when players don't have the opportunity to police themselves?

"It becomes a negative situation where guys take cheap shots and make dangerous plays because there is no accountability."

There is a word players use to describe this type of player: chicken-shit. There will always be players of this nature, but having to be physically accountable for his actions on the ice would at least reduce the number. When I imagine the board or committee that made this "no fighting" decision in the mid-eighties, I wonder how many had ever laced

up a pair of skates, let alone played organized hockey.

It's not difficult to figure out why, then, that they made the decision they did. "Fighting? God forbid, we can't have that in our University environment! We are learned individuals and can't condone having our players resort to fistcuffs to settle their differences." However, the last time I checked, hockey wasn't played in the classroom. Hockey is a gentleman's game, but players remove their jacket and ties before they start skating around with what might be considered a medieval-type weapon in their hands.

University was obviously the right atmosphere to promote change and I applaud the league's will to search out a new path. But it has been 15 years now and the rule hasn't worked out the way it was intended. If anything, the rule has had a negative affect and now it is time to change it again. Rob Daum notes "whoever initiated the suspensions did not have a lot of foresight" in considering the tactics players sometimes use because they can't find another outlet for retribution.

It's important to realize that as bad as the high sticking, hitting from behind and all of the other dirty-type plays there are in the league, it is still the best hockey to watch in Edmonton for your dollar. But to be absolutely clear Daum adds "fighting as a tactic ... taking out another team's top player - that's garbage." He points to some key factors. First, fighting would serve the purpose it is supposed to in the CIAU like no other. In junior hockey, players fight for contracts; in the pros, it's their job to protect certain players. At the university level, these are not as much of a concern. "Players would only fight to protect themselves, their teammates and

the integrity of the game."

Of course, not everyone thinks this way. U of Saskatchewan coach Dave Adolf thinks that coaches should take this initiative to "get rid of high-sticking by making their own players accountable." His response is justified, but how many coaches are willing to suspend a key player from their own team? Maybe after an incident, especially one that even the coaches might not see, the coaching staff and players will not agree about who should actually be accountable.

What about goons, players who just want to fight? Well, that's simple; there won't be any. The short, 28-game schedule requires that every player have the ability to contribute to the team in a positive manner. Stupid goon-like penalties hurt the team much more than they help.

So, instead of removing a player or immediately suspending him, the league should instead monitor the situation closer. If a player fights more than three times in a season then the league could hand out a suspension. Players could then at least protect themselves, while the league makes sure that no Charlestown Chiefs-type teams will emerge. It is a win-win situation, especially when the sticks come down and players know that they will pay the price if they decide to take liberties on other players.

In essence, if voice is a tool for change then let those who play the game have their interests heard. They have the best vantage point in determining what type of changes are necessary. When we get down to it, it's not about the fans or those in charge of the league. It's about the safety of the players on the ice and letting them police themselves, including the dishonorable players.

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SPORTS

THE GATEWAY

Thursday, 23 March, 2000

sports@su.ulberta.ca

Hockey Bears heading to Nationals

Keith Justik
SPORTS STAFF

Not since 1978 when the Bears hockey team amassed three consecutive National titles have they put together more than one championship in a row. They will be leaving everything on the ice in Saskatoon this weekend when they try to rekindle that multiple championship trend.

The Bears, who have made more appearances at CIAU national tournament than any other University team, have won two national championships in every decade since the first in 1963.

The team left Tuesday for Saskatchewan, stopping in Provost to practice and then to the Hewson residence, where a team dinner was provided. From there it was a midnight express to Saskatoon to begin focusing on their opponents.

Six teams have earned the right to vie for the National Championship.

In Pool A is Saskatchewan, UNB and Western Ontario. Pool B includes UQTR (Trois-Rivieres), Calgary and Alberta. Each team plays each other in their pool and then the top teams will advance to Sunday's final. Alberta is currently ranked top in their pool.

"A lot of players got a taste last year of what it's like to win a national title," said Bear veteran



The Bears slid past their opposition enough this year to be given a chance at the CIAU National Championships. They play in Saskatoon this weekend.

Tim Bulger / THE GATEWAY

Colin Ranger. "We want to give the new guys a taste of what that experience is like as much as they want it for themselves."

As expected, this is the question that looms over the Bears squad: will the new faces this year have what it takes to duplicate last year's feat? If the regular season results are any indication, the answer is a resounding yes.

The fresh faces on the team

ensured that there would be no complacency resonating from last season. The newcomers seized the opportunity to step up and contribute to the team as though they were in their second or third seasons.

The new players provided the team with some fresh enthusiasm and bought into the pride that defines the Bears' program. Kris Knoblauch, Kevin Marsh, Ryan Wade, Clayton Pool, Massimo

Provenzano and a host of veterans had a stellar season, which kept the Bears bouncing between first and second-place standing nationally throughout the year.

But now the real test begins. There is no room for mistakes in a tournament organized like this. Every shift will prove vital to the outcome and could have repercussions for the entire tournament. In this competition, there are no

points for second-best.

The Bears square off first on Friday at 12:00pm against the loser of the Calgary-UQTR game. On Saturday they play the winner of that game live on TSN at 2:00pm. Should they advance to the final, it will be played at 4:00pm on Sunday. All Bear games will be broadcast live with Bob Stauffer on 88.5FM (CJSR), beginning 15 minutes before face-off.

The irony of the ill-fated sports writer



Daorcey Le Bray
Sports Staff

At a party the other day, one of my nicer friends casually noted that I appeared to be carrying a tad extra padding than usual.

Thanks.

No really, I mean it. I need to be told that I'm a bit heavy on the extra bits. It keeps me grounded. What I don't need is to suffer the irony of the non-athletic sports writer. That part is slightly embarrassing because, if you think about it, how seriously could you take Marshmallow Man preaching to you about the normative situations of volleyball? Poor Marshmallow Man.

So I took it upon myself to get fit and do more than just watch step aerobics on TV (and if you do that too, I'm sorry, but welcome to the get-a-life club).

Situation number one: I think that the best way to buff up the ol' machine is to, whenever you get some free time, do a couple of simple exercises to keep the blood flowing. Cardiovascular! Yeah, baby.

Picture, if you will, my basement.

While I'm waiting for my brother to finish using the computer, I see a barbell sitting on the chair. Instead of checking out some quality peasant vision, I decide to lift the thing a couple of times.

I kneel on the easy-chair facing the wrong way. I bend at the back. I grip the bar (not noticing the weight because I've committed myself now—I don't want to look like a wuss). And I lift.

What my brother hears is a grunt, then a muffled POP!, and the thud of a falling barbell. I, on the other hand, am in shock. Funny thing about shock: nothing really hurts—things are just warm and fuzzy, and all I want to do is lay down.

Fortunately, it's not a long way down from the chair. I am aware that I'm being asked if I'm OK. I'm aware of moaning a bit. I'm aware of asking for strong drugs...

Situation number two: I feel that I should end situation one now, since all that happens next is a lot of laughing on the part of my family members. Yet, I'm still not fit. The next idea is to become a full-fledged athlete. This is seriously possible (I figure).

Seeing that I pay \$100 in obligatory fees to use the University's fine facilities, I guess I should visit the place at least once in my University career.

What do I like to do? Not anything where people can point and laugh. Not anything that requires extra money. So, I end up at the racket ball courts decked out in my finest pair of khaki shorts and a

quality florescent green, camouflage shirt.

Of course, I don't know how to play the game and I'm there by myself, so I reason that the best way to become athletic is to play by your own rules and enjoy the challenges you give yourself (official BS).

Within minutes I am enjoying myself while I pound that lil' blue ball into oblivion. Hey, I think, maybe I can be one buff dude. So, in my egotistical glory, I wind up for the next hit—I want to send that blue ball into the next world.

But, as I'm bringing my arm back, I miscalculate the position of my opponent sphere, and I send my follow-through into an awkward path reminiscent of Quasimodo in his first interpretive dance class.

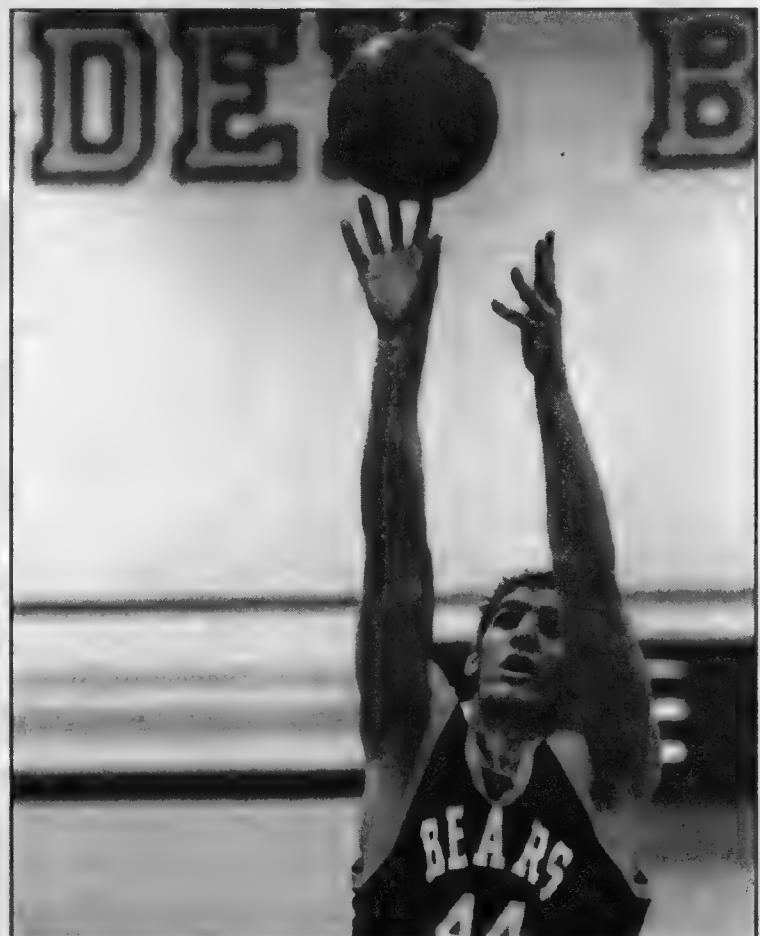
Instead of connecting racket with ball, I successfully slam the aluminum appendage into my temple. The ball whips past me as the racket falls from my hand. I falter, realizing that I can hear a strange echo on the court. My knees buckle and I am with my old friend, the floor, once again. This time I black out, only to be awakened by my own whimper to the roof.

Fortunately, it is not a glass-walled court.

So, I'm not as athletic as I had planned to be. Actually, I'm still as chubby as my good buddy noted I was.

Oh well, I can still take solace that deep down inside I'm anorexic—I'm just not good at it. The blessed irony of the sports writer.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Tim Bulger / THE GATEWAY

Name: Nick Maglisceau

Nicknames: Big Nick

Sport: Basketball

Year: 4

Position: Center

Hometown: St. Albert, AB

Birthday: December 3, 1977

Faculty: Science

Favorite food: Lasagna

Favorite movie: One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest

Favorite music: Enigma, Prodigie

Recent accomplishments: 1999 Canada West First-Team All Star

1999 CIAU First-Team All-Canadian



Ski team still hitting the slopes



Some ski team members on a quick stop at the chalet during spring training camp in Vernon.

Tanya Martin / Ski Club

Nancy Gregg
Sports Staff

While the majority of athletic teams are contending for titles on the court, fighting opponents on the playing field, or sparring for conference ranking, there's one squad that takes their competition to the top—literally. For the University of Alberta Ski Team, there's nothing quite like racing down the face of a mountain.

First and foremost, it must be noted that the racing crew is not to be confused with the Ski Club. Rather, it is the Ski Team, but holds student club status for a variety of reasons.

"We like to govern ourselves," said Rod Stein, a fourth-year science student and active member in the group.

Besides, one must take into consideration the fact that the group's uniqueness is unmatched by most other Canadian Universities.

"We don't have other university teams to compete against," added Cameron Musgrave, a fourth-year science student and Alpine Chair.

"We pride ourselves on that we don't turn away anyone. If we were to get varsity status, we would have to have tryouts and eliminations, and that is not what we are about. We like that we have the club status," said Tanya Martin, Vice President of the team and third-year Law student. She went on to add that any level of skier can join, whether it is to maintain your expert achievements, or simply to

gain racing experience on the slopes.

Although the group cannot refuse the right of any student who wants to join, they insist that the group is not for those who are faint of heart. Stein warned, "Being an actual club at the University means we cannot limit anybody from joining, but we do ask that, if you are considering joining, you be at least a competent skier on a mountain. However, we do not turn anyone away. That's not our nature."

The group trains every Wednesday night at the Edmonton Ski Club and competes in six races during the year. The first of these is held in December and the last in March, at Marmot. However, the group doesn't sit around waiting for races. Instead, their season is filled with training camps to polish individual skills and build team strength.

"Part of the success of the team is that everybody makes improvements and that people are committed to coming out as regularly as they possibly can so that they can make the improvements on their skiing at whatever level they are," said Martin.

The season does not start for this group at the first sign of snowfall. Instead, training begins in September, and continues until the end of the school year. Dry land training is the focus for the first semester, as the crew sets out twice a week to hone their physique.

"Before Christmas, when the snow starts to fly, we start skiing, but we continue to have dry land

training, and then we ski every Wednesday, but previous to that we are always dry-land training on Monday and Wednesday," said Jane Blackall, a third-year Education student, and an active racer on the team.

Unbeknownst to many, the group was founded on campus twenty-one years ago by current head coach Mark Stein, when he was a university student.

Blackall praised the two coaches, Stein and Herb Stark, for their involvement with the team.

"The coaches are really good at tailoring your training to your ability," said Blackall. "Even if you have somebody on the team who is not as skilled as everybody else, they're still really good at finding things that will allow you to improve, and they can stress your strengths and help you focus on your weaknesses as well but that doesn't interfere with the training that anybody else receives. It's quite individualized that way. As long as you can get down the mountain, they can help you improve how you look getting down the mountain."

The inspirational coaches do everything with the team except race, including participation in dry land training and attending social events.

Although it may be a too late to join the group of thrill-seekers this season, as the snow has already begun to melt, anyone interested for next year can attend an info session held at the beginning of the school year.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE GATEWAY

Thursday, 23 March, 2000

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Kung-Fu Grip overshadowed

REVIEW

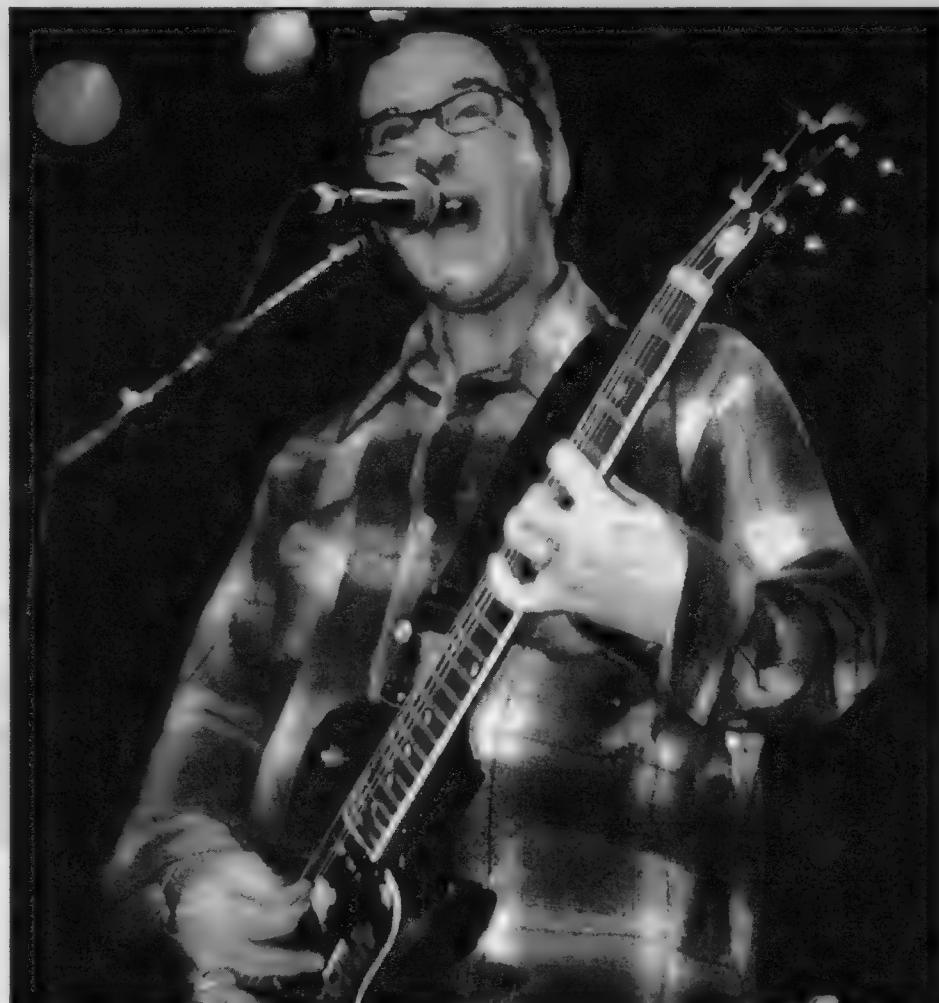
Kung-Fu Grip
 with Dominick Rabaan's Buicks All-Stars and Shem
The Rev
 18 March

James Rossiter
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

It should have been the other way around on Saturday night at the Rev. What was supposed to have been Kung-Fu Grip's show was inevitably stolen by Dominick Rabaan's Buicks' All-Stars (otherwise known as The Buicks, with a couple of their friends joining them).

The evening started out with a set by alt-country band Shem. Their set was, at best, uneventful. The three young lads that form Shem seemed content to spend the entire set standing in one place, and hardly interacted with the crowd at all. The music itself wasn't bad, but the lack of any band personality completely voided anything coming out of the speakers. They focused on harmonies, many of which seemed a little off-key, and nondescript country songs with no distinct edge of sound to them. Shem basically served to fill up the time before Buicks' All-Stars came on stage, and I probably won't see them again, unless they are opening up for another band, which seems to be their destiny as a group.

By about 10:30pm, The Buicks came out to a crowded Rev, and set off the show with a couple of their most energetic songs. Edmonton's best live band was joined by Chris "ex-Hyperpsyche" Stanton on key-



University Professor Mark Simpson demonstrated his English skills on the mic.

Colwyn Llewellyn-Thomas / THE GATEWAY

boards on a number of tracks, which really helped fill up the band's sound, and only added to the energy The Buicks created. This was somewhat of a rare appearance for the

Buicks; Jordan Stuffco, their drummer, has been away since September, so they filled in with a temporary drummer, who managed to keep the band as tight as ever. But the real star of the show was JP Coroner, the Buicks' guitar player. JP's stage antics included playing lying on his back, as well as four-feet high scissor kicks. It was obvious from the show they put on that The Buicks really do miss the live circuit. And from the reaction of the crowd Saturday night, the fans really miss The Buicks. What ended up being the highlight of the night was The Buicks' final track, during which Matt "Scarlet" Pahl joined the band onstage and infused them with the energy of pure My Bloody Valentine white noise guitar.

By the time Kung-Fu Grip had come out to play their show, what was once an almost full Rev was now nearly deserted, with only about 30 people remaining to watch the show. But you can't blame people for leaving, it was difficult to follow the show put on by The Buicks, and that was obvious by the end of Kung-Fu Grip's first song. Perhaps it was because of this that the band seemed to be completely devoid of energy. It's too bad, they were tight, and with a few leaps here and there, and a little more interaction with the crowd, could have put on a much better show. Instead, the band seemed bored with their job to entertain us, and gave the crowd the impression that they just wanted to plow through their set and finish the gig.

The night as a whole belonged to The Buicks, who should have headlined the gig. From the first note of their set to the last screeching guitar sound, The Buicks captivated their audience, leaving them wanting to hear more.

Israeli sorceress casts musical spell

REVIEW

Virtuosity
 Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
 Rivka Golani, soloist
 Jacques Mercier, conductor
Winspear Centre
 17 March

Sarah Chan
 Emma Hooper
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

Nothing catches the eye like a head full of fiery red curls, but in the case of Friday's symphony, red locks were only a minor asset to soloist Rivka Golani.

With more pieces commissioned for her than any other violist throughout history, Golani has made a well-deserved name for herself as a pioneer for her instrument. Complete with a demanding stage presence Golani displayed virtuosity and a true oneness with the viola through her performance of Walton's viola concerto and Paganini's grand Sonata.

The Walton concerto, with its deep earthy flare was a refreshing choice, as it could not be mistaken as a violin concerto. Its gypsy-influenced melodies created a haunting, yet warm, influx of the viola's lower range, perfectly coordinated with the work's dark tones. Golani and guest conductor Jacques Mercier took some time to obtain successful soloist/orchestral balance, however, by the second movement, the two had come together.

Atypical for second movements, Golani relayed a jumping bean, which segwayed nicely into the third part that was graced by

harp runs. The tragedy of this third movement was thick with the aforementioned gypsy-esque passion and romance. It forced the crowd to come to terms with the everyman's exceptional loneliness until it came to an emotional death with a black quiver of strings.

Golani continued to impress with her impeccable taste for musical styles. She was able to maintain her signature touch on her instrument but made the transition from romantic Walton to Classical Paganini without a falter. As she coaxed the golden ribbons of sound from her instrument we were reminded how human the viola can be. This could be described as nothing less than singing.

Only her bodily motions and aggressive attack on the strings of the instrument enhanced Golani's proficiency on the viola. There was enough of this to go around until the piece finally ended with a pouf of Roisin.

The Robin to Golani's Batman was of the diet variety. The Berlioz overture and Bizet symphony in C done by the ESO alone were all accuracy, elegance and refinement; a meringue-like example of music-lite. While these pieces entertained, they were nothing to check your blood pressure for.

Deserving of praise was the evening's Dance Suite by Calgary native Jeffrey McCune. An impressive display of the music genius produced right here at home (McCune obtained his masters of composition from the U of A in 1994). McCune's suite was a suspenseful portrait of black suits, shades, chase scenes and one hell of a horror movie.

Soloists dip in and out of Edmonton like bread-cubes in cheese fondue, however, Rivka's stop in Edmonton demanded your attention and left an impressive lasting impact.



Does film have Whatever it Takes?

MOVIE REVIEW

Whatever it Takes

Starring Shane West, James Franco,
Jodi Lyn O'Keefe
Directed by David Raynor
Phoenix Pictures

Adam Houston
Yunn Au-Yeung
Arts & Entertainment Staff

As you've all been asking yourselves, how does *She's All That*, er, *Can't Hardly Wait*... that is, uh,... *Whatever it Takes*, stack up in terms of the teen genre? *The Gateway* endeavors to answer.

The panelists:

Representin' for the ladies: Yunn, who is so old she probably doesn't even remember high school.

For the guys: Adam, who spent far too much of the evening trying to pick up halter-topped fourteen year old girls by telling them that he was old enough to drive.

So how does it measure up?

1) From what literary classic was the plot pilfered?

YUNN: *Cyrano de Bergerac*, although I think that's pretty obvious from the trailer,

unless you are an engineer or something.

ADAM: I'm going to say *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, but only because that's all I've studied in English this year.

Consensus: Works better than *Pygmalion* (*She's All That*) but not as well as *Dangerous Liaisons* (*Cruel Intentions*).

2) Which actors moonlight from popular TV shows?

ADAM: Scott Vickaryous from *Breaker High* and Christine Lakin from *Step By Step*.

YUNN: I did not recognize anybody. Why does Adam know this?

(Note: Yunn's journalistic integrity is in question, based on her admission that she has never actually watched *Breaker High*. However, she is quick to point out that the question is inaccurate, as neither of these shows were ever popular).

Consensus: The non-appearance of Jennifer Love-Hewitt is welcomed by all.

3) How hot was the male protagonist (Oh come on, as if anything else matters)?

ADAM: I thought he looked strangely like MacGyver.

YUNN: Yecchy. Only two Freddie Prinze Juniors out of five.

Consensus: On par with Anthony Michael Hall, circa *Sixteen Candles*.

4) How well was the personality of the female protagonist developed?

YUNN: She has a big rack.

ADAM: Believe me, I noticed. Oh my.

Consensus: She has really big, uh, personality. Schwing.

5) Which washed-up television comedian plays an inept parent?

YUNN: That "It's Pat" woman from SNL.

ADAM: And she's still not funny.

Consensus: Better than Joe Flaherty in *Detroit Rock City*. But she's no Eugene Levy (*American Pie*).

6) Was there a scene set in the female shower?

YUNN: Yes. It was pointless. No nudity whatsoever.

ADAM: I don't feel that this objectification of the female form served to further the plot in any way.

Consensus: Better just rent *Porky's*, you filthy pervert.

7) Was the depiction of high-school life in this film similar to your own experiences?

ADAM: I don't remember having this much sex in high school.

YUNN: I think there are a number of reasons for that, actually.

Consensus: If your formative years were like this, count yourself damn lucky.

8) Do the neanderthal jocks and bitchy teen-queens get their comeuppance?

ADAM: In innumerable ways.

YUNN: Yes. I wish it hadn't involved that guy in the leopard-print thong (it is best you

remain ignorant to that).

Consensus: Could have used a bit more Carrie.

9) Are the outrageous stereotypes and incredibly insensitive sex roles offensive in any way?

YUNN: Yes, but not amusingly. The side-kicks are below even Seth Green standards.

ADAM: That chick from *Step By Step* is so hot.

Consensus: Adam is a moron.

Conclusions:

YUNN: A brainless but tolerable movie. I might have liked it better if Adam hadn't been drooling in his popcorn. Also, it would have helped if some of the guys had been decent looking. That is, some people might think that. Not me though. I am not a shallow person. Really.

ADAM: Terrible. The dramatic potential of that giant wooden penis was totally wasted. Only one person got kicked in the gonads. And drugs were not glorified appropriately. Had the multi-talented Molly Ringwald been involved in some way, she could have maybe breathed some life into this one. Otherwise, it's hopeless.

Consensus: To use a colloquialism that nobody uses anymore, this film is old hat for all but the least experienced filmgoer. Watch *The Breakfast Club* instead. Twice. And watch Emilio Estevez work the magic as only he can.

Fundraiser proves to be a success

ARTS NEWS

In Solidarity, In Art

New City Suburbs

21 March

Ian Mulder

Arts & Entertainment Staff

The International Society for Peace and Rights held a fundraiser Tuesday evening at the New City Suburbs to raise funds for their upcoming May conference.

The awareness and fundraising event at the New City featured such local talent as Professor Mike Murdock, Cool Blue Method, the University of Alberta West African Drumming Group, East Indian Dance Group, as well as poet Susana Ramos. In addition there was a visual art display and sale, as well as a silent auction of books and other pieces of art.

The evening was a fantastic mix of Edmonton hipsters shaking it up for a good cause. Professor Mike Murdock's show was an unusual melange of theatrical styles that saw him dancing, singing, and jumping up and down, often at the very same time. It felt

like some sort of vaudeville act from the old school days. The U of A West African Drumming Group was as interesting as ever and added yet another dimension to the evening.

The 'headliners,' Cool Blue Method, were great and another band, comprised of at least dozen different styles, was sometimes arranged in a slightly bizarre format. The lead singer staggered and bounced his way across the stage in a manner that recalled Gord Downie bled together with a really tired Tom Jones.

Cool Blue Method seems to be getting a lot of gigs around town, and for a young band,

they seem to be doing pretty well. They worked the crowd as best they could to get people dancing to their calypso/rock/punk/folky type tunes.

The silent auction was largely compromised of books that the "left-wing-nuts" would appreciate. Several people left the Suburbs with one or more new books that were sure to please.

The upcoming conference runs May 1 to 7 at the University of Alberta. There will be a number of international and local speakers who will discussing a variety of topics ranging from development issues to environmental ethics.

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Julia Roberts carries film

MOVIE REVIEW

Erin Brockovich

Directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starring Julia Roberts and Aaron
Eckhart
Universal Pictures

Natalie Kaiser

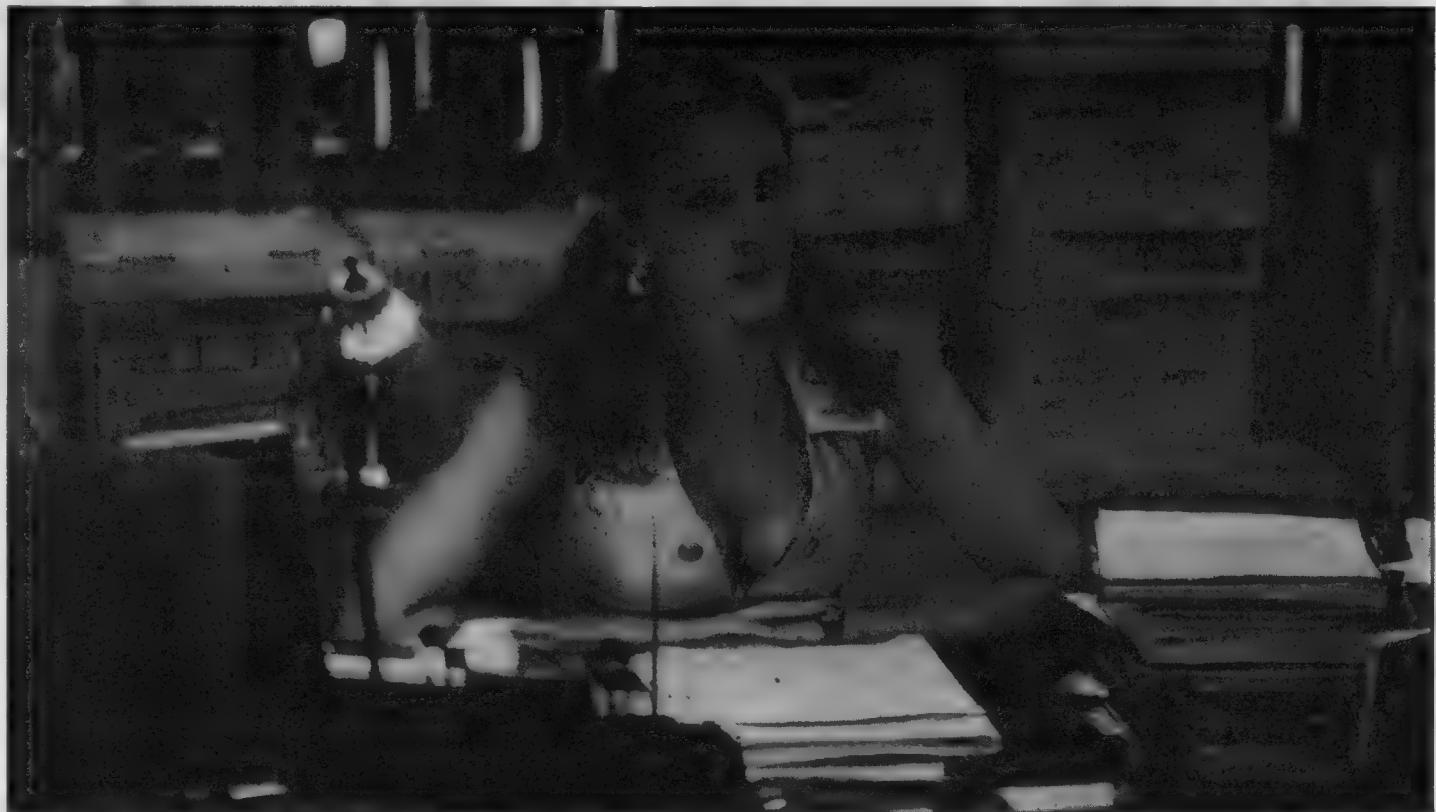
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Well, the audience was clapping, cheering and laughing out loud throughout this entire movie. This, in my books, identifies a good flick.

The film is the true story of a twice-divorced mother of three who finds a dirty secret and brings a big business' to their knees. Julia Roberts stars in this, her best leading role to date.

The humour in this movie was excellent. Sassy and bold describes Erin Brockovich from her wardrobe, to her hair and her language. That isn't all there is to this dynamic woman, though. Brockovich has heart. People respond to her and believe what she says.

Aaron Eckhart, a relative unknown in the business, plays Erin's biker neighbour George, who turns out to have a heart of gold. He was very believable without making George seem to be a complete pushover, which would have made the biker character



very unrealistic. Albert Finney plays Ed Masry, the lawyer, who ends up hiring Brockovich after he fails to win her a settlement from a car accident lawsuit. Finney has been around for a long time [Raging Bull]. He is a character actor, and the perfect choice

to play Masry and off of Roberts. Director Steven Soderbergh delivers a movie that is well worth the price of admission. He allows for the seriousness of the investigation and lawsuit to come through without losing the humour of Brockovich.

If you want to see a movie that keeps the focus of its audience from the moment it starts to its end, then see *Erin Brockovich*. The real Brockovich has a 30-second appearance in it. She plays the waitress at the restaurant. Watch for her!

CD REVIEW

Michael Penn

MP4: Days since a lost time accident
Epic Records

Steve Lillebuen

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF



Take this scenario: Michael Penn is married to Aimee Mann, Aimee Mann is friends with Fiona Apple, and Fiona Apple is dating PT Anderson. It is this bizarre connection that Michael Penn has that allowed him to score the music for PT Anderson's previous films *Hard Eight* and *Boogie Nights*. Add that to Penn's current list of four well-rounded albums and Michael Penn seems like the

next big thing for music. His connection to these people has also connected to his music, as his scoring sounds a lot like the aforementioned artists. He's a great vocalist, sounding slightly British, and his music is quite interesting to hear. A unique singer-songwriter that not enough people know about and a good listen for Aimee Mann fans.

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CD REVIEW

The Smugglers
Rosie
Mint/Lookout!

Geoff Moysa
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF



Those who say rock is dead probably haven't heard of the Smugglers. This Vancouver-based quintet gives good old rock 'n roll a well-needed kick in the balls on their latest album, providing an energetic antidote to the watered-down rock acts dominating the radio today. Blending carefree punk energy with traditional rock influences from just about every generation, this album is at once technically solid while remaining consistently fun. "Rosie" doesn't break any new musical ground, but with fast, catchy tracks like "Rock Thy Neighbour" and "Booze Can," it doesn't have to.

CD REVIEW

The The
Naked Self
Nothing / Universal

Steve Lillebuen
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

It's been seven years since The The created something new. The band has changed a lot since then and their experimentation with audio effects has increased. Looped tracks and fuzzy beats accompany the dark and melodic instrumentation. One song in particular seems a perfect fit for a beginning of a movie. Some of it is really bad though, a few

songs play for three minutes with only electric guitar noise and feedback before they actually start. Annoying. Die hard fans will love it, but most will likely run away from this band that couldn't think of a cool name for itself. Hey, how about It It, or You You, or The The? The The just sounds silly.



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Are comics kids' stuff? Glance to the next page and read the comic strips there. Are those for children? Hardly. My point: saying that comics are only for kids is no more valid than saying that the Internet is only a source of porn.

I admit that the majority of comics people know of, like *Spider-man*, are aimed at boys in their early teens, but there are a lot of comics intended to be read by an older audience.

While it wasn't the first, the best-known mainstream comic aimed at an older audience is probably *Watchmen*. It's rife with symbolism, multiple layers of meaning and other devices usually associated with high literature, and it certainly isn't intended for kids.

The success of that series, and of others like Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing* issues, which are some of the best horror stories done in any medium, led DC to start a new division called Vertigo, dedicated to producing comics for an older audience.

Dead Enders, printed under the Vertigo banner, is set in a world where the difference between the rich and poor is literally night and day.

The book takes place twenty years after a cataclysm that has all but blocked out the sun. The poor have been segregated to the outer sectors of the largest city ever built, where day is a mere lightening of the haze in the sky, while the rich live in the centre of the city bathed in artificial sunlight and controlled artificial weather.

I recently spoke to *Dead Enders* writer and creator Ed Brubaker about the series and about comics in general.

WB: You write *Dead Enders* and co-own the rights along with penciller Warren Pleece, but Vertigo publishes it. How did this come about?

EB: *Scene of the Crime*, a comic I did for Vertigo, was well received, so my editor and executive editor wanted me to propose a monthly series to follow it up. They suggested I do a book with an ensemble cast because Vertigo already had several monthlies focussing on one main character. This got me thinking in terms of doing a Vertigo Archie comic—a depressing Archie comic.

I was visiting a friend in Brooklyn at the time and I noticed that there were a lot of people living outside of Manhattan, but just a half hour subway ride away, that had never been there. I was going to Manhattan two or three times a day just because it was so close and couldn't imagine seeing this really great city and never being able to go there.

That's where I came up with the idea for the big city in *Dead Enders* where they all live and are all trapped in their cruddy neighborhoods. They can occasionally see these better places but they aren't allowed to

go there. I was thinking of combining Manhattan with Eastern Europe in that sense.

Along the way, I was trying to think of a visual hook for the series. It occurred to me that all of the Vertigo series that had been even moderately successful had had a distinct look. In fact, everything that looks a little bit like *Sandman* [another Vertigo comic book] has never really hit that big. It occurred to me that they had never done kids riding around on scooters, which seemed like a sure bet for Vertigo. [Laughs] When I was a teenager and in my early twenties, my friends and I would ride around all over San Diego—where I grew up—on scooters and stay out all night at diners and get into lots of trouble. So I mixed all of this together and came up with *Dead Enders*.

WB: A few people have actually been complaining that the scooters take away from the book ...

EB: That's fine. To me, it's just an affection. I can understand how that would initially turn some people off, but those are probably the same people who said, "Oh God—a comic about some guy who looks like Robert Smith," and ended up loving *The Sandman* anyway. Any time you just look at the surface elements of something, it's easy to dismiss it. So I don't put much stock in the complaints. The people who are complaining still seem to be buying the books anyway.

WB: Where are you going with *Dead Enders*?

EB: So far it's been fun. I have a good grasp on the world I am writing these stories in and most of the characters are based, at least loosely, on people I knew. This way if I'm having trouble with a scene, I can think, "How would Mike react to this?"

I've got the plot figured out for twenty-five to thir-

Out from the Dead End of the independent presses:

a discussion
with Ed Brubaker

Interview by William Branton | Art by Warren Pleece
Design and Layout by Dan Lazin

ty issues and after that, it can go in a number of different directions if Vertigo are still willing to publish it and I still want to do it.

I am working on the ninth issue now, which is where I start to explore the setting and the main plot a little more. I took the first eight issues to establish that setting and get some of the main plot elements moving, but more to deal with the main character. He starts out as a jerk. My goal was to have a character who wasn't that sympathetic and over the course of six or seven issues to drag him down to ground zero and make him sympathetic to the reader. Everyone who sticks with it up to issue nine will get a big payoff. I don't think I will be losing readers at that point.

WB: You mentioned that the first storyline will have a strong appeal to the teen audience, but what audience are you shooting for with the series overall?

EB: I am shooting for a really general audience. I did alternative comics and still draw my own comics. I am working on a longer piece now that probably won't come out until next year. Most of the stuff that I've done before I started working at DC and even *Scene of the Crime* was aimed at adults who still read comics. With *Dead Enders*, I am trying to do a comic that can be enjoyed by those same people, but would also appeal to people who have never read a Vertigo comic—people who have grown out of super-hero comics and are looking at Vertigo books but find that the older books are too far along to catch up on. I was trying to create something that could help garner an audience for the line in general, trying to straddle the fence between the teen reader and the adult reader.

Personally, when I first moved from reading superhero comics to more alternative comics, there was all this stuff by Alan Moore out there. The stuff that Vertigo was founded on. I was getting sick of the superhero crap I was buying week in and week out and then I started reading these superhero comics by Alan Moore that were just so much better than everything else that was coming out. *Swamp Thing*, *Miracle Man* and all that stuff lead me to demand more from the comics I was reading. Slowly, I started to search out other good comics to read and stopped buying comics that were wasting my time and money. I've always seen Vertigo comics as a bridge between regular superhero comics and adult comics.

To some degree, I look at the comics that Vertigo puts out as being like adult TV shows. When you are doing episodic fiction the best you can hope for is to be as good as the best TV shows. What Alan Moore did with *Swamp Thing* was very good episodic fiction whereas *Watchmen* was a novel written in twelve parts.

WB: How does working at DC, the biggest company in the business, compare with small press work?

EB: For one thing, it's a big pain in the ass. For the first two issues of *Dead Enders* I had to do a lot of rewriting, though both issues ended up being better for it. It just isn't something I was used to. In alternative comics you don't have an editor, you are your own editor. The problem with that is you can get halfway through a story and realize that it's not working out and you have to either find a way to make it work somehow or just scrap it, which has happened to me a few times. It's nice to have an editor to bounce ideas off.

Also, with *Dead Enders*, I am doing episodic fiction for a large audience. When I was only doing alternative comics, I was writing self-contained stories essentially written for myself and a few friends with the hope that someone else would also enjoy them.

Of course, it's nice to get paid a lot compared to how much you make in alternative comics. I can write and draw a twenty-four page comic and have it take at least three or four months and, if I'm lucky, make \$2000 on the whole thing. Now I can write a comic for DC in a week or two and make more than that.

WB: So, besides your own work, what else would you recommend to a university audience?

EB: I would recommend essentially anything from *Drawn and Quarterly*: Julie Doucet, Joe Matt, and Seth all do good work. I would pick up just about any Chester Brown collection. *GhostWorld* and *Caricature* by Dan Clowes are both great books. There's *Goodbye Chunky Rice*, which is the best selling alternative graphic novel ever. That's sold over five thousand copies in bookstores alone. Joe Sacco's *work* would probably appeal to a lot of students as what he's doing is essentially political journalism in comic form. Jason Lutes does *Berlin*, and that's something I would recommend to a lot of people. I would recommend anything you can find from Top Shelf Productions and a lot of comics put out by Fantagraphics Books.

I always recommend *Watchmen* to people who have never read comics before but know of comics, or who read them as kids. It's the last super-hero comic anyone needs to read. *Transmetropolitan* is popular and it never hurts to recommend that. Most of the Vertigo comics would appeal to someone who read comics as a kid who want to buy a comic regularly. That is the big advantage Vertigo has over the smaller publishers: their comics come out monthly whereas some independent stuff may only come out once or twice a year. I always enjoy *Preacher* and *100 Bullets*.

I would recommend that anyone who enjoys comics should start delving into alternative comics because they are done for a more adult audience and done for the sake of art and not commerce.

Listen to the man: there are comics out there for all tastes, from science fiction to mysteries to politics and back. Besides, speaking as a student and book worm, good comics are just as entertaining and informative as any five-hundred page novel or television drama, and they take less time away from studying than either of. So for those looking for enlightenment and entertainment, head down the street and go find someone who will sell you a comic your little brother isn't old enough to read.

Fantablogonius Friends Follies by Mike "deddyjuslej" Winters



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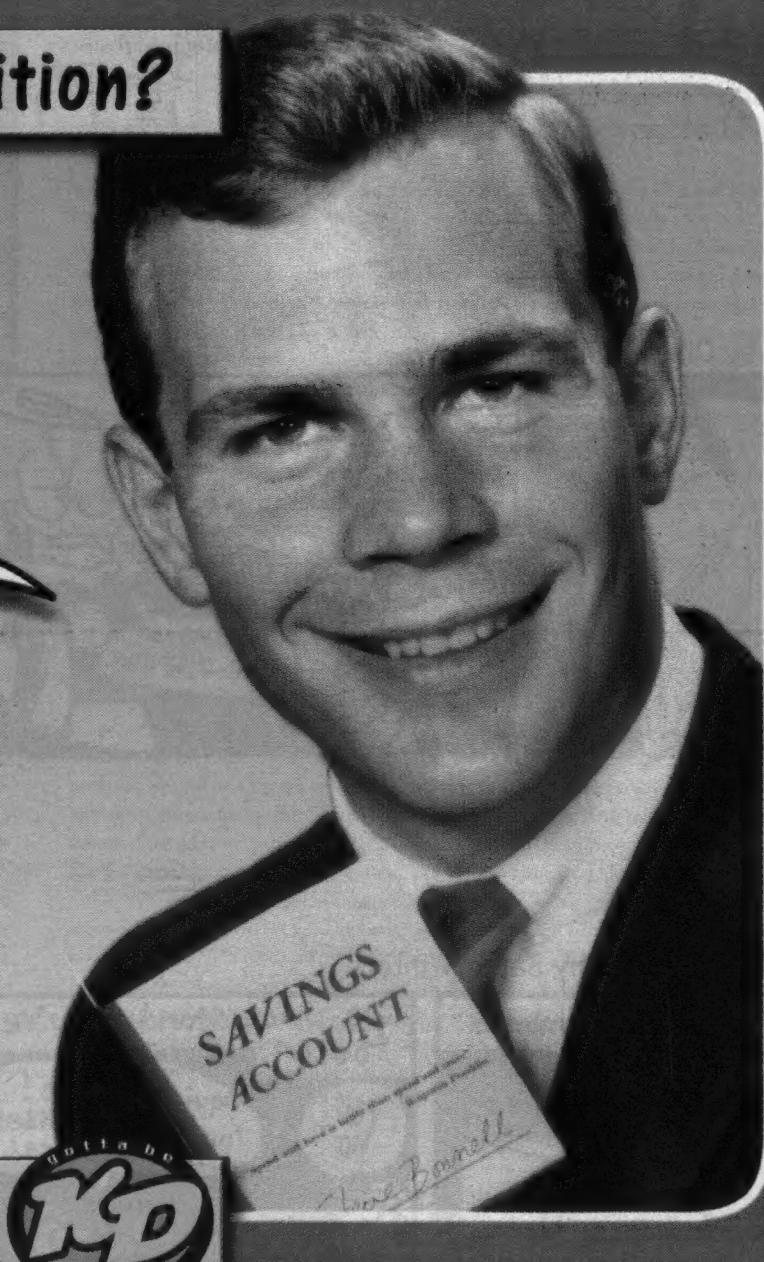
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